

THE MAINE FARMER: AN

The Maine Farmer

Augusta, Saturday, Jan. 22, 1870.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER, \$2.00 in advance, or \$2.50 if not paid within three months of the date of subscription.

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A subscriber desiring to change the post office direction of his paper must communicate to us the name of the office to which it has previously been sent, otherwise we shall be unable to comply with his request.

COLLECTOR'S NOTICE.

Mr. V. D. DANLION will visit our subscribers in York County during the months of December and January.

Mr. S. N. TARB, will call on subscribers in Waldo County during the months of December and January.

Mr. S. I. FRAZ will call upon subscribers in West Somerset, during the months of January and February.

Railroad Consolidation.

The advantages accruing to every community from the increased facilities for communication afforded by railroads, no longer need to be supported by argument. Whatever doubts have been entertained on that point have passed away among the fossilized notions and "popular fallacies" of half a century ago. The sleepy farmer who originally objected to the construction of a railroad through his section of the State, on the ground that he should have no market for his horses and oats when the old stage line had been superseded, was surprised to find a greater demand and better prices for both horses and oats. In fact it is no longer in controversy, but is established beyond all cavil that these great thoroughfares tend to open up the resources and promote the internal prosperity of a country in a most remarkable degree. Indeed the public confidence in the influence of these enterprises over modern civilization has been so great, that in some sections of the country the demand for them has amounted almost to a mania. Adventurers and speculators have not failed to avail themselves of this state of feeling, and in many instances the result has doubtless been corruption and abuse. Hence we have seen railroad companies formed purely for gambling purposes, and roads projected where the business requirements of the people and the exigencies of public travel did not call for them and could not sustain them. We have seen mortgage bonds thrown on the market by these gamblers, where there was nothing but imaginary property for a basis. We have seen other insolvent companies obtain large advances from the State, which went chiefly into the greedy clutches of dishonest managers. We have seen other prosperous and powerful companies obtain "special legislation" until they became a chartered monopoly directing and controlling the legislation of the State, regardless of the public welfare. The gambling in "Erie," the crushing power of the Camden & Amboy, and the corruption of the Boston & Hartford have been so constantly harped upon in the public prints, that a feeling of prejudice and distrust has been excited against all railroad managers, and all combinations of capital. Senator Carpenter of Wisconsin not long since expressed the opinion that the destinies of this country would ultimately pass under the control of consolidated railroad, express and telegraph companies, unless the energies of the government were enlisted to check the growth of such monopolies. At the State Fair in Wisconsin last October, Senator Carpenter yielded.

"Factional" companies are not behind in the wisdom of this generation, and are now bending all their energies to a combination which will prevent competition, and deliver the people bound hand and foot into their tender keeping. For all practical purposes we have one telephone company in the United States, and that one is expensive. The time has come when we must check the present tendency; it will not be long until we shall have but one railroad company in the United States; and then it is by no means improbable that the three monster monopolies may "in order to perform a more perfect union," insure tranquillity, provide for the safety of the public, and secure their "general welfare," "ordain and establish a constitution," which shall combine all three in one."

If the States were to relinquish all authority and control over their public thoroughfares, and leave the public to the tender mercies of such monopolists, there would doubtless be good reason for Senator Carpenter's apprehensions. But it is not believed that they can ever be compelled to do so. The bill now pending before the Senate of this State, authorizing the consolidation of our railroad corporations, specially provides that "nothing herein shall be so construed as to prevent the Legislature from passing such general laws in relation to railroads as may be necessary to prevent abuses and the public safety may require." Nor will any corporation organized under the bill be allowed to "increase the general aggregate of its rates for freights or fare above the general rates of the Maine Central or the Portland & Kennebec railroad, as existing and published January 1st, 1870, without the consent of the Legislature." On the whole the bill would seem to be so formed as to avoid nearly all of the serious objections there can be raised to the consolidation scheme, and effectually check all tendencies to a dangerous monopoly. The bill will probably be thoroughly discussed; and if the Legislature becomes thoroughly satisfied that the public can have all the facilities which they now have for the same tariff and that the interests of the different companies would at the same time be greatly promoted by their unification, there seems to be no good reason why the bill should not become a law.

EP A serious and unlooked-for hitch has occurred in the payment to towns of the awards made by the Assumption Commissioners on account of bounties paid to three years' men during the war. The agents of many towns on application for reimbursement at the State Treasurer's office, are not charged with the unindited badness on the books of the Adjutant General, of which they previously had no knowledge, and this alleged indebtess is deducted from the bonds, in some instances to an amount nearly equal to the award of the Commissioners. Some of the towns have submitted to this deduction and settled with the Treasurer, others refuse to do so. All inquiry fails to ascertain satisfactorily how this indebtess occurred, and the matter is now undergoing investigation in the Legislature. A curious fact in connection with the affair is that the sum thus charged to the several towns does not appear as among the assets of the State upon the Treasurer's books.

EP The Maine Educational Board commenced its annual session in this city on Monday last. All the County Supervisors were present and many teachers and other friends of education were in attendance. The President, Dr. N. T. True, addressed the Board at length upon the practical methods of education. The business meetings of the Board will be held in the forenoon of each day, and the afternoons and evenings will be devoted to lectures and discussions by the members and others interested in education. The Board meets under favorable auspices and thus the proceedings have been of great interest. The meetings in the afternoons and evenings are held in the Representatives Hall.

EP The Judges of Probate for the several counties of the State assembled in this city last week, as we learn from the *Journal*, comparing notes, and examining the probate laws, with a view of ascertaining from their experience, in what respect the laws may be improved. The Judges present were Nourse & Sagadahoc, Bountiful of York, Baker of Kennebec, Currier of Franklin, Godfrey of Penobscot, Converse of Lincoln, Waterman of Cumberland, Munroe of Piscataquis, Duscomb of Somerset, Leavenworth of Knox. The meeting was organized by the appointment of Judge John E. Godfrey, Penobscot, Chairman, Judge Henry K. Baker of Kennebec, Secretary. We understand that it was determined that several beneficial improvements may be made.

EP We regret to learn that Mr. Carpenter Winslow, of Moosehead, an old and respected citizen and successful farmer of that place, died very suddenly on Saturday evening last, probably of congestion of the lungs. He was in our office the day before his death apparently in his usual health, and we understand was engaged in work all day Saturday. He was about 60 years of age.

AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

For the Maine Farmer.

Taxation of Savings Bank Deposits.

MESSRS. ENTRON:—In your notice of the address of Governor Chamberlain, in the *Farmer* of 15th inst., I find the following remark:—"It accords rather poorly with our idea of equality in taxation to see nearly \$11,000,000 of capital belonging largely to the wealthy classes, entirely exempt from its share of the public burden." This is said in regard to the deposits in the savings bank of Maine. The statement is as wide from the fact, and being from a source so intelligent and so generally correct, I think it must be regarded as a slip of the pen rather than a deliberate statement.

The Bank Examiner in his report for 1869, stated the whole amount of deposits in the savings banks of Maine at \$10,889,565.36. That officer having made the subject of deposits in the savings banks a matter of careful examination during the past year, I will ask you to republish from his report, the conclusion to which he has arrived. He says:

"The fund is but an accumulation of about 40,000 small sums belonging to as many different persons. As a general thing, this fund has been the result of the savings of the poor laborers of both sexes. It

would be very unpalatable doctrine that any such fund should be excused from the charge of taxes

as the first \$1,000 of income is exempt by the National bank from taxation.

It is to the virtue of economy in taxation that we have been able to secure the greater privileges derived through the medium of less restricted intercourse. Hibbert business enterprises of every grade, in this vicinity, have been greatly impeded by the circumscribed bounds to which they have been limited; and have either ceased altogether to struggle for the larger freedom they desired, or have made only such fitful and feeble attempts at improving their condition, as could not result in any lasting success. But the uneasiness and restlessness have been contagious, and at length has reached some of those more daring and adventurous spirits, that decline to be soothed with courteous generalities and indefinite promises. They persistently demand room for greater growth and wider expansion, affirming the wants of the community have outgrown their present boundaries, and suggesting some point where these barriers may, and other points where they must be opened, that broader and deeper tides of prosperity may flow to the national capital. The artes of trade languish for the life-giving impetus derived from infusions of enterprise outside of their own existence; and their pulses will quicken with healthy success in just the proportion in which these privileges are accorded. It would seem but a question of brief time for these interests to succeed. The desire for room is legitimate, and the opportunity for it ample; and with these conditions admitted, the result cannot be uncertain, or the expansion of business in the national metropolis very long delayed."

The fourth lecture of the "Grand Army Course" was delivered in Lincoln Hall, in this city, on the evening of the 10th inst., by Hon. G. S. Boutwell, Secretary of the Treasury. His theme was "The Growth of American Independence," and was treated with marked ability and forcible illustration which his audience as a writer and scholar prepared his audience to expect. He traced the growth of the principles of Independence through all the dark and cloudy days of the American Revolution, until their final and complete recognition and establishment.

Indeed, it is not necessary to argue the question so far as it embraces solely that class property or legitimately designed as savings bank deposits.

It is only with reference to that class which is composed of wealth, that the tax is intended to be applied.

In order to ascertain the exact amount upon the subject, the nature of deposits with reference to their individual amounts has been made a subject of examination.

Those of over \$1000 each have been made a subject of investigation, and the same have been made a subject of examination.

Mr. John Fletcher, of the Bank Examiner, has been called upon his brother, Mr. John S. Tolman, for assistance in the examination of the books of the bank, and obtained the services of a young man, Mr. E. E. Tolman, to assist him in the examination of the books of the bank.

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